

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov



August 31, 2010

To: INTERESTED PARTIES

**SUBJECT: PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY NOTICE (RFP) 700-09-001
SUPPORT OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSMISSION
INITIATIVE**

**THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT CONTAINS THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE PRE-BID
CONFERENCE:**

Proposals must be delivered no later than 3:00PM EST September 14, 2010.

Sincerely,

Andrew Ferrin

ANDREW FERRIN
Contract Officer

Attachments
RFP 700-09-701 Questions and Answers

Questions & Answers

August 19, 2010

Pre-RFP Conference

A careful review of the RETI website [<http://www.energy.ca.gov/reti/index.html>] will provide further details for potential bidders.

1. Will the contractor need to provide for the use of WebEx for RETI meetings?

No, the Energy Commission has provided the use of WebEx for technical working group meetings and for many of the Stakeholder Steering Committee (SSC) meetings. At this time, the entity that hosts the SSC meeting is providing the webcasting technology.

2. Will today's sign-in sheet be available?

Yes, today's sign in sheet is available here:
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/siting.html>

3. Who is the existing facilitator and how will they be involved in the future?

Current facilitation responsibilities are provided by Aspen Environmental, the current contractor, and the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies (CEERT), a subcontractor to Aspen. The Work Authorization under which they provide services to RETI expires later this year. The contractor selected as a result of this RFP will assume all duties as of the starting date of the new contract. There is no anticipated overlap.

4. Will the winning bidder be facilitating the meetings?

Yes, the winning bidder will be the facilitator of the meetings (technical working groups, Coordinating Committee (CC), SSC, and Plenary Stakeholder Group, along with other duties as detailed in the RFP.

5. Is the media part of the Stakeholder Steering Committee process and how/will they be involved going forward?

No, the news media is not a represented group on the SSC, as it is not a stakeholder in the transmission planning process.

When major work products have been released, the Media Offices of the Energy Commission, California Public Utilities Commission, and California Independent System Operator have generally released information to the media. Additionally, some of the entities participating in RETI have also issued press releases on various topics.

The media has attended and reported on some of RETI's meetings and work and is likely to continue to do so.

6. Is the contractor responsible for the cost of meeting rooms?

No; to date RETI has been able to use the meeting facilities of RETI members, including the Energy Commission, the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Independent System Operator, SMUD, and LADWP at no cost.

7. Is any reimbursement available for non-profit organizations to participate in RETI?

No, not through this contract.

8. Is the contractor the primary point of contact for scheduling meetings and distributing materials?

The SSC, CC, and various technical working groups, in concert with the contractor, set the schedules for their meetings. The contractor maintains e-mail lists for each of the groups and distributes materials for meetings as they become available.

Additionally, the Energy Commission hosts a web site for RETI [<http://www.energy.ca.gov/reti/index.html>] on which materials are posted. The Energy Commission also maintains a RETI List Server and notifies the RETI List Server when new materials are posted.

9. How has the current contractor worked to attain consensus from stakeholders?

Attaining consensus is a RETI goal, but some issues may prove intractable. The current contractor has spent long hours listening carefully to the positions of various stakeholders and working with them at meetings of the CC, SSC, technical working groups, in one-on-one meetings, etc., to vet issues and attempt to reach consensus.

10. What is an example of a work product resulting from the consensus process?

The Phase 1A, 1B, 2A and 2B reports, available on the RETI website, are examples.

11. How many concurrently running technical working groups have there been?

At one point, both the Environmental Working Group and the Transmission Working Group held weekly meetings for a period of less than a full year. A careful review of the RETI website [<http://www.energy.ca.gov/reti/index.html>] will provide further details.

12. What are the next steps in the process; will there be a short list of contractors announced? Also, will there be any opportunity for anyone outside the Energy Commission to weigh-in on the selection?

Please see the key activities and dates section for the next steps in the RFP. There will not be a short list announced. RETI stakeholders will not weigh-in on the selection of a contractor. Nor will anyone outside the Energy Commission will not have input in this solicitation.

13. Will you interview the bidders?

If necessary, clarification interviews will be held September 22 and 23, 2010. Interviews will not be scheduled if staff evaluating the proposals does not believe the proposals are in need of clarification.

14. Are preference points given for non-profit organizations?

Preference points are not given for non-profit organizations.

15. What are the significant differences between the Scope of Work (SOW) described in this RFP and the SOW of the current facilitators?

One major difference is that the current work authorization contains a task covering the completion of the *Phase 2B Report*, while the RFP does not include the preparation of any such RETI report. However, the RFP does include the participation in additional forums that is not an activity in the current scope of work.

16. To what extent will the Energy Commission allow the Contractor to act as an independent third-party facilitator, rather than considering it to be an agent of the Energy Commission in every respect?

The contractor is an agent of and solely accountable to the Energy Commission and its staff. However, the Energy Commission is supportive of the RETI stakeholder process and has not to date directed nor predetermined specific outcomes from RETI.

17. Will there be any assistance for small businesses to find partners?

The link posted in response to question two may assist businesses with finding potential partners. The Energy Commission will not provide direct assistance to bidders.

18. If a contractor is working on the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), would that constitute a conflict of interest in bidding on this RFP?

Generally, a contractor working on the DRECP or under another Energy Commission contract would not have a disqualifying conflict of interest in bidding on this RFP. However, conflicts might arise in certain circumstances, and it is the responsibility of each bidder to ensure they can comply with standard conflict of interest provisions that will be included in the contract that is awarded. For example, a contractor that is working under more than one Energy Commission contract must avoid making decisions or recommendations under one contract that affect its work under the other contract, or evaluating under one contract the work it has performed under the other contract. All respondents must also demonstrate the ability to successfully complete the identified work tasks in light of other work commitments. Please refer to **x** for the conflict of interest terms that will be included in this contract.

19. Why has Energy Commission issued this RFP instead of continuing to rely on facilitation by CEERT and Aspen?

The Energy Commission directed staff to release this RFP at the end of the current contract as part of the state's competitive bidding process.

20. Has the Energy Commission invited CEERT and Aspen to respond to this RFP?

The RFP has been issued as part of the State's public contracting process. All parties are welcome to respond to the RFP. No invitations have been issued to any party to respond to the RFP.

21. If a bidder is already a contractor/subcontractor on a KEMA PIER contract, but its staff hourly rates have changed since then the PIER contract was awarded, would the bidder be able to use its current rates?

Bidders may use their current rates to bid on this solicitation.

24. Will the contractor be expected to become an intervener in CPUC dockets?

No; RETI is a voluntary stakeholder collaborative that does not have any regulatory authority. As such, RETI does not participate in legal proceedings.

25. How will the \$750,000 funding be disbursed, per invoice after work completed? In phases? In advance?

Monthly invoices are required and after approval by the Contract Manager, will be paid on a monthly basis.